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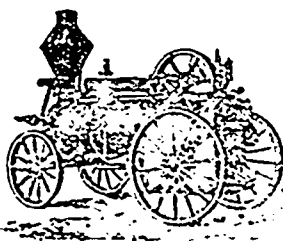
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MINING.

THE DISCOVERY OF SILVER IN NEVADA; THE WORK OF
THE GROSH BROTHERS.

From the Engineering and Mining Journal.

Mrs. Emma M. Jones, a sister of the ill-fated Grosh brothers, furnishes us with some further details of their lives. E. Allen Grosh, the elder brother, was born in Marietta, Pa., in 1824, and Hosea B. Grosh in the same place in 1826. They were the sons of the Rev. A. B. Grosh, a Universalist clergyman. Both the young men received a good education and were well informed on general subjects, and were of industrious and temperate habits. Their boyhood was spent in Utica, N. Y., but at the outbreak of the California gold excitement in 1849 they were living in Reading, Pa. An organization of eighteen men was formed in that place called "The California Association of Reading," which they joined, Allen becoming the secretary of the association. They left Reading for California in February, 1849. The following extracts from a letter written by their father to Mrs. Dr. C. B. Winslow, of Washington, D. C., on July 2th, 1879, and printed in the Lyon County Times, of Silver City, N. M., August 27th, 1879, gives the subsequent details of their lives:

"E. Allen and Hosea B. Grosh went from Reading, Pa., in a company in 1849, and reached California, via Tampico and Mazatlan. They soon engaged in gold mining, most of the time at or near Mud Springs (now El Dorado,) El Dorado County, with varying, but never very prosperous, fortune. They visited Carson Valley in 1851, but soon returned to California. In 1853, however, they made it a longer visit, and pretty thoroughly prospected portions of what they called 'Carson Valley,' 'Gold Canon,' 'Lake Valley,' and 'Washoe Valley,' and many of the adjoining mountains.

"After their return to California with specimens for fuller examination, they wrote many letters giving details of their discoveries and of the information they were gradually acquiring respecting modes of testing their value. One stated that they found what they believed to be 'carbonate of silver in Gold Canon,'—a 'dark gray' mass, 'tarnished probably by the sulphuric acid in the water. It resembles thin sheet lead, broken very fine, and lead the miners suppose it to be. The ore we found at the forks of the cañon—a large quartz vein—at least boulders from a vein close by here shows itself. Other ore of silver we think we have found in the cañon, and a rock called black rock, very abundant, we think contains silver.' These and other discoveries of this period led to many conversations with 'Old Frank,' an experienced Mexican miner, and to numerous experiments in assaying, as their limited means allowed, preparatory to a return to Carson Valley. They also organized a large company of kindred and friends in the middle Atlantic States, called the 'Utah Enterprise Mining Company,' of which they were part, and for which they were agents—which was to enable them to hold and work their various and numerous discoveries.

"But lack of means delayed their return to Carson Valley until May, 1857 when they obtained an outfit by organizing the 'Frank Mining Company'—named after 'Old Frank' aforementioned, constituted of themselves and a few wealthier friends who advanced the money. They soon rediscovered their former discoveries, and what they called 'our monster vein,' they located in the name of the Frank Company, and other veins in the name of the Utah Enterprise Company, and located in their own name what they termed 'a smaller but richer vein'—a much more promising vein, because more easily worked. Both these are said to be at or near 'the forks of the cañon.' They also mention 'suits of vein crossing the cañon at two other points,' and 'a mammoth vein of copper—copper pyrites—25 or 30 miles north of the cañon, containing considerable silver,' and resembling copper then about being mined for its silver some distance from theirs.

"They found great difficulties in making reliable assays in the nature of ores, being 'not, as we had supposed, magnetic oxide of iron, but the magnetic sulphure of iron,' and other mixtures, (antimony, etc.) adding difficulties in their tedious and tedious labor, with deficient materials and imperfect apparatus. But all their assays showed the blackish, purple and violet rock to be rich in silver. The greatest difficulty, one they could not surmount except after much time and labor, was their poverty. To procure food they must use nearly every hour not absolutely needed for rest in gold digging and washing, leaving only a few spare hours for roasting and smelting.

"While engaged in digging earth on Gold Hill,* for washing, Hosea struck his pick into the hollow of his foot. This was on August 19th, and mortification set in and caused his death on September 2nd. He was buried respectfully by his fellow miners, and his remains have since been removed to a cemetery at Silver City and a memorial stone has been placed over them.

"Allen, as early as he could, on November 15th, in company with his friend, Mr. Bucke (now Dr. R. M. Bucke, Superintendent of the Dominion Insane Asylum, London, Canada,) started for California. They were hindered by the loss of their mule and his recovery, and caught in the great snow storm of that year while in the Divide of the Sierra Nevada, and compelled to kill their mule and throw away their specimens and other baggage, and continue their journey on foot through the deep and trackless snow. Their powder and matches got wet, and the mule-meat being consumed, they were four days and nights without fire or food, sleeping in their blankets under snow. They reached a Mexican miners' camp, legs frozen to above the knees, and thence were taken on sleds to Last Chance by the miners of the latter place, where Mr. Bucke had one leg and foot and part of the other foot amputated, and recovered. But Allen, after lingering most of the time unconscious, died December 19th, and was tenderly buried. Mr. Bucke has since marked the grave of his fellow-sufferer with a suitable memorial stone.